

§ 1304.41

Act preschool program, or a child care setting.

(2) Staff must work to prepare parents to become their children's advocate through transition periods by providing that, at a minimum, a staff-parent meeting is held toward the end of the child's participation in the program to enable parents to understand the child's progress while enrolled in Early Head Start or Head Start.

(3) To promote the continued involvement of Head Start parents in the education and development of their children upon transition to school, grantee and delegate agencies must:

(i) Provide education and training to parents to prepare them to exercise their rights and responsibilities concerning the education of their children in the school setting; and

(ii) Assist parents to communicate with teachers and other school personnel so that parents can participate in decisions related to their children's education.

(4) See 45 CFR 1304.41(c) for additional standards related to children's transition to and from Early Head Start or Head Start.

(i) *Parent involvement in home visits.*

(1) Grantee and delegate agencies must not require that parents permit home visits as a condition of the child's participation in Early Head Start or Head Start center-based program options. Every effort must be made to explain the advantages of home visits to the parents.

(2) The child's teacher in center-based programs must make no less than two home visits per program year to the home of each enrolled child, unless the parents expressly forbid such visits, in accordance with the requirements of 45 CFR 1306.32(b)(8). Other staff working with the family must make or join home visits, as appropriate.

(3) Grantee and delegate agencies must schedule home visits at times that are mutually convenient for the parents or primary caregivers and staff.

(4) In cases where parents whose children are enrolled in the center-based program option ask that the home visits be conducted outside the home, or in cases where a visit to the home pre-

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sents significant safety hazards for staff, the home visit may take place at an Early Head Start or Head Start site or at another safe location that affords privacy. Home visits in home-based program options must be conducted in the family's home. (See 45 CFR 1306.33 regarding the home-based program option.)

(5) In addition, grantee and delegate agencies operating home-based program options must meet the requirements of 45 CFR 1306.33(a)(1) regarding home visits.

(6) Grantee and delegate agencies serving infants and toddlers must arrange for health staff to visit each newborn within two weeks after the infant's birth to ensure the well-being of both the mother and the child.

(The information and collection requirements are approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0970-0148 for paragraph (a).

[61 FR 57210, Nov. 5, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 2313, 2314, Jan. 15, 1998]

§ 1304.41 Community partnerships.

(a) *Partnerships.* (1) Grantee and delegate agencies must take an active role in community planning to encourage strong communication, cooperation, and the sharing of information among agencies and their community partners and to improve the delivery of community services to children and families in accordance with the agency's confidentiality policies. Documentation must be maintained to reflect the level of effort undertaken to establish community partnerships (see 45 CFR 1304.51 for additional planning requirements).

(2) Grantee and delegate agencies must take affirmative steps to establish ongoing collaborative relationships with community organizations to promote the access of children and families to community services that are responsive to their needs, and to ensure that Early Head Start and Head Start programs respond to community needs, including:

(i) Health care providers, such as clinics, physicians, dentists, and other health professionals;

(ii) Mental health providers;

(iii) Nutritional service providers;

(iv) Individuals and agencies that provide services to children with disabilities and their families (see 45 CFR 1308.4 for specific service requirements);

(v) Family preservation and support services;

(vi) Child protective services and any other agency to which child abuse must be reported under State or Tribal law;

(vii) Local elementary schools and other educational and cultural institutions, such as libraries and museums, for both children and families;

(viii) Providers of child care services; and

(ix) Any other organizations or businesses that may provide support and resources to families.

(3) Grantee and delegate agencies must perform outreach to encourage volunteers from the community to participate in Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

(4) To enable the effective participation of children with disabilities and their families, grantee and delegate agencies must make specific efforts to develop interagency agreements with local education agencies (LEAs) and other agencies within the grantee and delegate agency's service area (see 45 CFR 1308.4(h) for specific requirements concerning interagency agreements).

(b) *Advisory committees.* Each grantee directly operating an Early Head Start or Head Start program, and each delegate agency, must establish and maintain a Health Services Advisory Committee which includes Head Start parents, professionals, and other volunteers from the community. Grantee and delegate agencies also must establish and maintain such other service advisory committees as they deem appropriate to address program service issues such as community partnerships and to help agencies respond to community needs.

(c) *Transition services.* (1) Grantee and delegate agencies must establish and maintain procedures to support successful transitions for enrolled children and families from previous child care programs into Early Head Start or Head Start and from Head Start into elementary school, a Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

preschool program, or other child care settings. These procedures must include:

(i) Coordinating with the schools or other agencies to ensure that individual Early Head Start or Head Start children's relevant records are transferred to the school or next placement in which a child will enroll or from earlier placements to Early Head Start or Head Start;

(ii) Outreach to encourage communication between Early Head Start or Head Start staff and their counterparts in the schools and other child care settings including principals, teachers, social workers and health staff to facilitate continuity of programming;

(iii) Initiating meetings involving Head Start teachers and parents and kindergarten or elementary school teachers to discuss the developmental progress and abilities of individual children; and

(iv) Initiating joint transition-related training for Early Head Start or Head Start staff and school or other child development staff.

(2) To ensure the most appropriate placement and services following participation in Early Head Start, transition planning must be undertaken for each child and family at least six months prior to the child's third birthday. The process must take into account: The child's health status and developmental level, progress made by the child and family while in Early Head Start, current and changing family circumstances, and the availability of Head Start and other child development or child care services in the community. As appropriate, a child may remain in Early Head Start, following his or her third birthday, for additional months until he or she can transition into Head Start or another program.

(3) See 45 CFR 1304.40(h) for additional requirements related to parental participation in their child's transition to and from Early Head Start or Head Start.

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